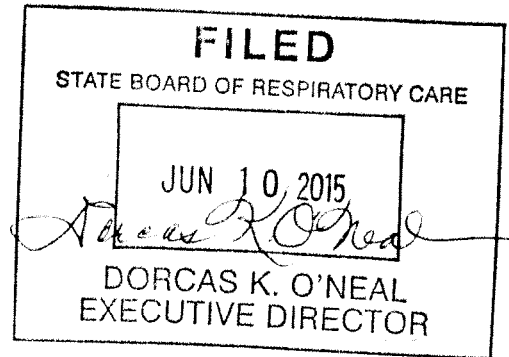


JOHN J. HOFFMAN  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY  
Division of Law  
124 Halsey Street  
P.O. Box 45029  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
Attorney for the Board of Respiratory Care



By: Virginia Class-Matthews  
Deputy Attorney General  
Telephone (973) 648-3696

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
Board of Respiratory Care

IN THE MATTER OF

STEPHEN ELTRINGHAM, R.T.  
LICENSE NO. 43ZA00194200

TO PRACTICE RESPIRATORY CARE  
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Respiratory Care upon receipt of information that Stephen Eltringham, R.T. ("Respondent") was terminated from his position of Respiratory Therapist at Saint Claire's Healthcare System (SCHS) in Denville, New Jersey for failing to monitor a ventilator for patient K.M. who was in distress and later expired. It was reported that K.M. showed signs and symptoms of a decreasing oxygen saturation ("SO2") in the 60%-70% range (normal 95-100%) and an incorrect FI02 of 40% during Respondent's twelve hour shift from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. on

October 3, 2013. The physician ordered the FI02 setting on the patient's ventilator at 100%. It is believed that the ventilator was turned off prior to finding the error and when it was turned back on the ventilator reverted back to a default setting of 40%.

It was Respondent's responsibility to monitor the settings and ensure that the settings were as ordered by the physician. During his seven hour shift he should have known that the settings were at 40% instead of 100%.

Respondent appeared before the Board on November 18, 2014 and explained that when he arrived for his shift at 7:00 A.M. he had an emergency bronchoscopy for this patient. It was his responsibility to check to make sure that the ventilator settings as ordered by the physician were set on the ventilator. He indicated there was a problem with the ventilator because the ventilator was showing that it was set at 100% however the computer report was showing 40%. He did not see the report and did not realize it was reporting at 40%. He did not find out that the ventilator computer was reading at a setting of 40% until he came back to work the following day.

During his shift he reported to his supervisor that there was a bent cable on the ventilator and his supervisor told him it would be checked however they did not correct it and no one came to help him. He took no further action to ensure that the settings were as ordered by the physician.

Based upon Respondent's testimony on November 18, 2014 and the Board having reviewed documents obtained during the investigation,

and the parties being desirous of resolving this matter and avoid further proceedings, Respondent waiving any right to a hearing and the Board finding that the within Consent Order is adequately protective of the public health and safety:

IT IS Therefore, on this 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June, 2015

HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent is hereby reprimanded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d) for failing to monitor the ventilator settings and failing to ensure that the settings were as ordered by the physician. Failing to do so constituted neglect.

2. As a condition of continued licensure and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(g), Respondent shall be required to take additional continuing education courses as follows:

- a) Patient Safety - 1 credit
- b) Mechanical Ventilation - 5 credits
- c) Medical Record Documentation - 1 credit

None of these courses shall count towards CE required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44L-41.

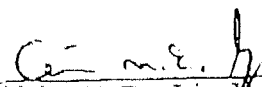
3. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Order may result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings for failure to comply with an Order of the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF  
Respiratory CareBy: Kenneth Capek  
Board President

I have read and I understand the terms  
of this Consent Order and agree to  
be bound by it. Consent is hereby  
given to the Board to enter this  
order.

  
Stephen Eltringham, R.T.5/14/2015  
Date

Consented to as to form and entry:

  
Cecilia M.E. Lindenfels, Esq.  
Attorney for Stephen Eltringham